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From: Golden, Michael [mgolden@state.pa.us]
Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2003 10:31 AM
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Subject: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company

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November 20, 2003

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Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company
Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Commissioner Adelstein:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the public schools and libraries in our Commonwealth, I am writing to express our support for the nomination of Alaska State E-rate Coordinator, Della Matthis, to the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).

You may be wondering why would the Pennsylvania Department of Education be supporting the nomination of an individual from another state?

We have closely observed the original nominations and appointments to the (then) Schools and Libraries Corporation (SLC) board, and all appointments since 1997. The individuals that have been appointed to the board representing schools have been leaders of national organizations, not persons with education, school, or first-hand E-rate experience. And while we understand that such representation was crucial in the beginning of the program, we now believe the board should be have representation from actual E-rate practitioners.

The USAC and SLD boards would benefit greatly from an individual that has served at the state department of education level, as well as someone who is in daily contact with school and library applicants, and state E-rate coordinators from 39 other states.

Ms. Matthis is an active leader in the State E-rate Coordinators' Alliance, participating in weekly conference calls with 39 other states, the Federal Communications Commission staff, and Schools and Libraries Division Staff. Her efforts have been to not only act as an advocate for the schools and libraries of Alaska, but also as an advocate for the program itself.

It is because we believe she will bring this much-needed school applicant perspective that we strongly support her nomination. We know she will be a highly respected representative for both the universal service programs and the schools in all states and territories.

Sincerely,

L. Michael Golden
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